

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 11958 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 26 NOV

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S E C R E T CAIRO 11958

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS SY

SUBJECT: FURTHER COMMENTS BY SYG WALDHEIM

REF: CAIRO 11957

1. FAHMY GAVE A DINNER LAST NIGHT AT HIS HOME FOR SYG WALDHEIM. SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND I WERE THE ONLY TWO FOREIGN AMBASSADORS INVITED. IN THE COURSE OF THE EVENING, MOST OF THE POINTS ALREADY REPORTED IN THE REFERENCE TEL CAME UP AGAIN. A FEW ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS MADE BY WALDHEIM AND HIS ASSOCIATES MAY,
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HOWEVER, BE OF INTEREST.

2. WALDHEIM WAS A BIT TAKEN ABACK BY THE RIGIDITY OF THE SYRIAN POSITION. HE HAD APPARENTLY EARLIER BELIEVED THAT THE SYRIAN LINE CAME MAINLY FROM KHADDAM, BUT HAD FOUND ASAD EQUALLY INFLEXIBLE. THE BITTER OPPOSITION OF BOTH SYRIAN LEADERS TO SINAI II CAME THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR. (IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, GUYER LATER TOLD MOHAMED RIAD THAT HE HAD TO ACKNOWLEDGE ASAD HAD BECOME SOMEWHAT "ISOLATED" AT UN AFTER SINAI II.) NEVERTHELESS ASAD TOLD SYG THAT HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO A SIX-MONTH EXTENSION OF UNDOF MANDATE IF SOME CONCRETE ACTION TAKES PLACE DURING THIS PERIOD TO MOVE AHEAD ON ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. SYRIANS, IN WALDHEIM'S VIEW, HAVE AGAIN PAINTED THEMSELVES INTO A CORNER AND ARE LOOKING FOR SOME FACE-SAVING WAY OUT. SYG BELIEVES HIS IDEA ADUMBRATED PARA 7 REFTTEL MIGHT ENABLE THEM TO EXTRICATE THEMSELVES FROM THEIR SELF-IMPOSED DILEMMA. IF SOME KIND OF A RESOLUTION WERE PASSED AT THE JANUARY UNSC MEETING THAT HE IS THINKING OF, THIS MIGHT INCLUDE COUNCIL APPROVAL TO HEAR THE PALESTINIANS, BUT AT A LATER DATE. WALDHEIM STRESSED THAT HE CANNOT BE SURE THAT ANY OF THIS WILL SATISFY THE SYRIANS, BUT WILL TRY IT OUT ON SYRIANS LATER TODAY. GUYER SPECULATED THAT SYRIANS MAY NOT REALLY WANT ANOTHER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

3. SYRIANS ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH ARAFAT. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK, ISRAELIS HAD URGED SYG NOT TO MEET WITH ARAFAT. IF SUCH A MEETING COULD NOT BE AVOIDED, THEY SUGGESTED IT BE ON SYG'S SECOND TRIP TO DAMASCUS, I.E. TODAY. WHEN SYG INITIALLY MENTIONED THIS TO KHADDAM, LATTER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD. SUBSEQUENTLY, KHADDAM ASKED WALDHEIM TO MEET WITH ARAFAT ON FIRST VISIT TO DAMASCUS, SINCE PLO LEADER WAS LEAVING SAME DAY FOR MOSCOW. WALDHEIM DID NOT PROVIDE ANY ACCOUNT OF THIS MEETING.

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4. EGYPTIANS HAVE NO OBJECTION TO WALDHEIM'S IDEA AS A POSSIBLE WAY OUT OF CURRENT IMPASSE.

5. AT ONE POINT, GUYER MENTIONED HE HAD SOUGHT TO IMPRESS UPON SYRIANS THAT, WHILE THERE MIGHT BE CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT IN UN TO GRANT HEARING TO PLO, THEY SHOULD NOT EQUATE SUCH SENTIMENT WITH SUPPORT FOR ELIMINATION OF ISRAEL. MANY AFRICAN

STATES MIGHT INDEED SUPPORT PLO HEARING, BUT
WOULD OBJECT IF THIS EFFORT IS SUBSEQUENTLY FOCUSSED
ON ELIMINATING OR EXCLUDING ISRAEL.

6. FINALLY, WALDHEIM ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS WARM
REGARDS TO YOU. HE WILL CALL YOU AFTER HIS RETURN TO
NEW YORK LATER THIS WEEK.
EILTS UNQTE KISSINGER

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